

The Vision

The Primary Weekly Communication Instrument of
The United Baptist Church of Northern Virginia

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The United Baptist Church Vision is "to develop an intentional relationship with God, as in Jesus, so that our lives demonstrate the transforming effect and supreme importance of such a relationship for us, our society, and our world."

Volume 7

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Issue 22

Big News

Young At Heart Gadabouts
Traveling to
Glyde's Willow Creek Farm for Lunch
Broadlands, VA
Tuesday, June 9
Ice Cream Stop on the Way Home

[If you plan to pay cash for your lunch, please bring small bills]

Bus Leaves Church Parking lot at 10:45 a.m.
(No exact return time)

Vacation Bible School Is Coming!

VBS will be scheduled in a different way than in past years. It will be held on 5 different days scheduled throughout the whole summer. It will feature special activities in addition to Bible Study each day. We hope you will be interest in helping. If a child, we hope you will attend. Speak with Twyla Turner, immediately! Persons who intend to be students and persons who intend to staff the event will help decide which days during the summer we will schedule the VBS.

June Mission Night...with prepared meal!

June 17, Dinner 5:45 P.M.; Program 6:30 P.M.

Members from our sister church, Ravensworth Baptist

Presenting a program on the Middle East Situation

As They Recently Experienced It During an On Site Visit

Come and Welcome our Sisters and Brothers! We Birthed Them!

There's another bird outside my window, a male robin red breast. His mate is sitting on their nest nearby. I first noticed him when I heard the sound of tapping in my basement office. I snooped around wondering if the AC fan bearings were going bad. But it was this robin tapping (or was he knocking) on the top transom window panes. Why in the world is he knocking, on my window. I spoke out loud, wanting him to tell me. I don't know what I would have done if he had answered! Was something wrong with him; with his mate? Did he need my help? I thought this is the kind of thing people write about and get published in Guidepost magazine. (Maybe after I wrote about it for this column I can mail it in to Guidepost.) He moved from pane to pane, even around the side of the house to other windows, doing the same thing. Persistent, but why? Every time I go to the office he's there, doing the same thing. He'd better stop it. He'll knock off his beak. He's no woodpecker!

Finally decided to confront primitive nature with the latest in technology, the internet computer Google search engine. I typed in "Why is a bird tapping on my window." I know, I agree, I felt funny asking a machine and laughed at myself. But I had asked the robin, and all he did was to keep knocking. Guess what? Google popped up any number of sites to select for answers to my question. It was like I asked God, not really expecting a direct answer. Each site read something about how robins are very territorial and that I should not feel so special thinking it only happened to me. Turns out it happens to lots of people. Robins see themselves in a window pane—especially panes like I have installed with antiglare film on the inside. My robin imagines lots of birds, one behind each window pane, all around the house, perhaps a house full of robins, lurking, for just the right moment, to attack him and his mate and soon-to-be-family. It's a wonder he doesn't go crazy and commit suicide like one of those Japanese World War II dive bombers, to protect his homeland. He imagines it is him against incredible odds. He is courageous! He doesn't give up. He's pecking away at them one at a time, and even though he doesn't succeed with that one, he goes on to the next one in the next pane as if before it overwhelms him. The devil in me thought of going to the back door to my office and while he is pecking at birds, one at a time, opening the door to let all those birds out at one time. Just imagine the scene: robins pouring out the door falling over each other trying to get to him. What a cruel thought. Oh, well, I guess I'll just have to put up with my territory obsessed courageous robin red breast until after the birthing season ends.

Robins aren't the only creatures captured by fear of the real or imaginary enemies in this world, are they? Some of us see enemies everywhere, and peck at our perceived enemies, either attacking with brutality or with noise like my robin acquaintance, just drawing attention by our complaining. I think Jesus was tempted by fear of some human enemies. Remember Jesus feared he would starve to death while in the desert and wishing he could turn stone to bread. Abraham Maslow, noted psychologist of the last century, created a hierarchy of needs that humans fear overtaking us. If I remember correctly, hunger was the most basic fear. The fear in Jesus (Satan) made him imagine turning rock into bread. Fear made him come up with a crazy method of feeding himself that was a fantasy, just like my robin pecking at an enemy that does not exist. He can't help it! But Jesus could. Jesus came

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

June

3	8:45 a.m.	Sandwich Ministry, Fellowship Hall
	10:30 a.m.	Instrumentalists's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	5:45 p.m.	Prepared Dinner Begins (baked chicken)
	6:30 p.m.	Discipleship Study, 5/31 Sermon Text Expansion/Questions , Dr. Yawn
	7:35 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
4	7:00 p.m.	Gideon Monthly Meeting, Conference Rm
7	10:55 a.m.	Worship with Communion
	12:15 p.m.	Monthly Birthday Fellowship after Worship
	12:20 p.m.	Church Leadership Council, Conference Rm
8	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting, Conference Room
9	10:45 a.m.	Young-at-Hearts Gadabouts to Broadlands for lunch—see The Vision front page
10	8:45 a.m.	Sandwich Ministry, Fellowship Hall
	10:30 a.m.	Instrumentalists's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	5:45 p.m.	Prepared Dinner Begins (spaghetti)
	6:30 p.m.	Discipleship Study, 5/31 Sermon Text Expansion/Questions , Dr. Young
	7:35 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

up with solving Maslow's first need by creating a new way to create community governed by selfless love using our God given gifts to feed everyone, not just ourselves. I think this is the meaning of the story Jesus told about the beggar Lazarus at the rich man's door. The rich man surely ignored Lazarus out of the imaginary fear of being like Lazarus or fantasy that if Lazarus would just stop being lazy as he had stopped, he could feed himself. Maybe! Maybe not! To think like this is to forget the many factors that help some people get enough and others not to get enough. Factors like meeting different acquaintances, different circumstances, different physical restrictions, etc. So, fear of the enemy on the other side of the window pane, kept the rich man knocking at imaginary enemies. Jesus concluded that all the rich man had to do was to live in the real world where you eliminate fear of hunger by using your rich man gifts for the common good. And when you do so, you become richer in ways in which you are poorer—eternal ways!

I think Jesus was afraid of speaking his unpopular message of selfless love to a world which only wanted to elevate the individual and be admired. The enemy on the other side of the window pane was wanting the world to love him and his message. I think that Jesus' fear drove him to think that if he jumped off the highest pinnacle of the temple, the God of ultimate worldly power would not let him be injured. After all, didn't it say so in Scripture! But his message contrary to the popular worldly message said, true life is not about his being admired by the world. Jesus' understanding of God, the God of truth, said that life is not about his satisfying his vanity. Life is about using his gifts (knowledge), applied by the intention-driven-love (agape) of God, so the world would come to love itself into being more alive than even the magic of high-tower-jumping could give it.

Fear can make us do crazy things that we do not want to let go doing, because they are the most familiar ways to deal with enemies, real or imaginary. And we keep pecking at those enemies the same old ways, even it pecking doesn't change our fear. Poor robin red breast! But Jesus knew what robin doesn't know, can't know, but you and I can know. Yes, our world is fearful and you can get hurt and killed if

[Unravelings continued from previous page]

you do not eliminate your enemy—like robin yearns to do. And, yes, our world is fearful and you can get hurt and killed if you do respond to your enemies like Jesus responded with approaches that build community. So, what's the difference? The quality of life you experience as you stop pecking at and start engaging your enemy with your gifts for their common good (and for your good) is more personally peaceful, more full, more abundant, even if they do not get it. I wish I could get this across to my robin red breast. Hey, I wish I could get this across to me, to say nothing of to everyone.

Youth News...Twyla Turner

Youth Missions meet this Wednesday, June 3. We will work on the Amazing Bible Race quizzes for anyone who wants some extra help. Bring your ABR Runner's Log for valuable help with the quizzes. Call Twyla and let her know if you need a ride for Wednesday at 703-606-6527. There will be **NO** Youth Missions on June 10 or June 17 because Twyla will be in Iowa.

It was good to see everyone back again this past Sunday in Sunday School and church. I hope you will be able to be back for again this Sunday. Youth are reminded that they should be working on completing all materials through week 7 of the **Amazing Bible Race**. You will be meeting on Sunday June 14th for Sunday School, while I am away. It will give everyone an extra day to work on their quizzes before we move forward on June 22. Make sure you complete some material at home this week and bring it to Sunday School on Sunday morning. Please bring your runner's log and Bible so that you will have the information you need for the quizzes. If you want to work ahead, please feel free to do so. Remember we are working online now so your effort affects everyone else.

If you would like to earn some **Disciple Dollars or need service hours for school**, please contact Twyla. Some of you have already talked to me about this and I have opportunities available. If others are interested or need hours please let me know so that we can help others and at the same time help ourselves.

June 23 will be a special event for the children in our congregation. It will be **Children's Fun Day** and will include a Bible story and craft and a pool party in the afternoon. The youth will have their special focus **Mission Project Day** on June 25th. More details will be coming on both of these activities next week.

Paintball is coming on June 27. If you plan on attending, please let Twyla know.

The youth **End of School/Summer Kick-off Pool Party** will be one week later (June 28) than usual this year to allow students to spend the day with their Dads on Father's Day. More details on this activity next week also.

Vacation Bible School is coming this summer. If you have **any** interest in helping or attending, and have not yet spoken with Twyla, please do so immediately. Feedback from potential attendees and workers show that mid to late August will be a better time for our VBS this year, so we will be working toward that.

Coming Attractions:

- June 3-Dinner & Youth Missions
- June 10 & 17 No Youth Missions
- June 18—School ends
- June 23-Children's Fun Day-Pool Party—Youth helpers needed
- June 25—June Mission Project Day
- June 27--Paintball
- June 28—End of School/Summer Kickoff Pool Party
- July 1-2—Amazing Bible Race Team Leg 1 Fast Forward Challenge Lock-in

Time to Remember Graduates

With the end of the school year nearing, so is the time when we will recognize those of the UBC extended family who will be graduating. We want to join in celebrating that achievement. Please provide us with the names, schools, and degrees (if applicable) for the graduates in your family so we can include them in an upcoming issue of *The Vision*. You can use a bulletin insert on Sunday to report your graduate(s) or you can report your graduate(s) to the church office by phoning 703-256-5900.

The Shepherd's Center of Annandale Springfield Wants You to Mark Your Calendar for The Coming Event

JUNE 16, 2009

Next **Lunch N Life**

The United Baptist Church

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$9.00 (\$8 for SCAS members)

Phone 703-941-1419 for reservation

"The Middle East – Behind the Headlines"

Bill Kirby, Retired Foreign Service Officer

Dr. and Mrs. Young will be on vacation in Missouri to visit their family, especially his parents. Dr. Young will be back in the office June 4 and back in the worship service on Sunday, June 7.

Phone Committee Seeks

Two Additional Callers

Sue Korcel, chairman, announces her gratitude to two persons who would be willing to join her committee to phone a short list of members to "spread" appropriate information about church members and events, usually of short notice, to make sure members do not get left out on pertinent information. Homebound members may find this something that will make them feel more a part of the church ministries. Contact Sue: 703-256-4430 or the Office at 703-256-5900.